



The UNabridged

THE CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION NEWSLETTER

**What do
you want
your
student
union to
be doing
for you?**

Questionnaire

The CSU thanks you for your time in answering this questionnaire. Your responses will be collected and analyzed to make your student union better able to serve you!

Please indicate your answers by circling the correct response.

Which faculty are you in?

- a. Arts & Science.
- b. John Molson School of Business.
- c. Engineering and Computer Science.
- d. Fine Arts.
- e. Independent Student.

How many years have you been in Concordia?

- a. Under 1 year.
- b. From 1 to 2.
- c. From 2 to 3.
- d. From 3 to 4.
- e. Over 4 years.

Are you a full-time student or a part-time student?

- a. I am a full time student taking at least 12 credits.
- b. I am a part-time student taking under 12 credits.

How old are you?

Are you female or male?

- a. Female.
- b. Male.

Do you have courses at the Loyola Campus?

- a. Yes.
- b. No.

**Find out more about the
CSU Questionnaire on pg. 3**

January • 2002

Advocacy at Concordia

Help Us to Help You

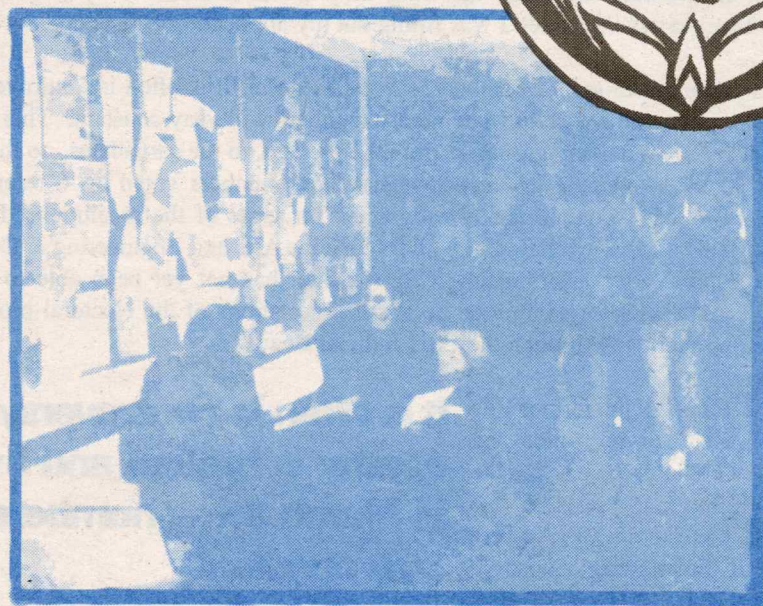
By Ralph Lee, V.P. Academic - Advocacy.

In late December President Patrice Blais informed me that due to the resignation of the previous executive and contestations of the by-election, the union would need an transitional government to "hold the fort" until the judicial board rendered a verdict. I have always wanted to work towards furthering student interests so I naturally wanted to be part of a transitional executive committed to do just that.

On January 9th our student council voted to appoint me Vice-President Academic and Advocacy until the judicial board rules on the contestations of the election. In my first week in office I have dealt with countless students who have come to their union seeking support and advice on a wide range of issues. The majority of the students have been the victims of uncaring and inflexible professors. Seeing these problems firsthand I have decided to begin an ambitious project that would see the union conducting a comprehensive teacher/course evaluation.

This evaluation would be extremely beneficial to all students for a number of reasons. The teacher/course evaluation would be made available to students over the internet which would allow them to be better informed when choosing what courses to enroll in. Most students are reduced to trying to find a friend who may have taken the same course to get info about the type of course and more importantly the type of professor. This is a service that I believe all students deserve and hopefully by next semester students from all faculties will be able to simply log on to the C.S.U. website to get an idea of both the professor and course they plan to enroll in. Many of the problems that students have spoken to me about could have been avoided had they had more information in advance about the course and teacher.

A second problem that must be addressed is discrimination felt by students from certain professors. I take these claims extremely seriously and will be trying out concepts that will reduce the likelihood of students being discriminated against because of their ethnic background. One idea is to have students hand in their exams and papers with only their student i.d. number to identify them. No student should be the victim of discrimination and each of these cases should be dealt with, with the utmost seriousness.



On a final note I would like all students to know that your union is now working for you and I encourage all students to come by our office on the 6th floor to see firsthand the many services the union provides. If you are facing any problems relating to academic issues or simply need confidential advocacy I am available Monday to Friday during union hours. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of Concordia a happy new year and continued success in the next semester.



Student-run cafeteria?

Food for thought

By David Bernans, CSU Researcher

Imagine coming off the escalator to the 7th floor cafeteria in Concordia's Hall Building and being immediately seduced by a cavalcade of odors from food as diverse as the Concordia community itself. Imagine these delicacies being served-up to you by your fellow Concordia students at prices well below those of the current corporate food-service provider. Imagine no more corporate logos or corporate uniforms. No more styrofoam or plastic. Real food - Kosher, Halal, vegan, vegetarian, healthy and hearty - on real plates. There is even a compost bin where your scraps will be used to feed the community gardens at Loyola. You can choose to participate in a variety of lunch-time events held by the various clubs, associations and collectives that together run the community cafeteria.

"People thought we were dreaming when we said we were going to provide high quality meals on a pay-as-you can basis"

Is this merely a utopian day-dream? Not according to Zev Tiefenbach of the People's Potato food collective. He has recently submitted a proposal on behalf of the People's Potato and Concordia's Muslim Students Association to the CSU Council of Representatives for a Student-Run Cafeteria. The proposal envisions a cafeteria overseen by a joint university-CSU-student group advisory committee and run on a day-to-day basis by Concordia's many clubs, associations and food collectives.

"People thought we were dreaming when we said we were going to provide high quality meals on a pay-as-you-can basis to as many Concordia community members who showed up for lunch," recalls Tiefenbach. "We proved the nay-sayers wrong before, and we can do it again."

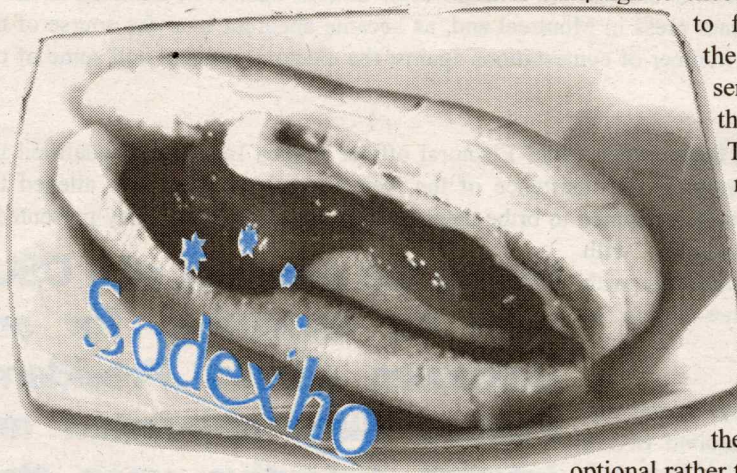
Still, the University Administration has its doubts. Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services Johanne DeCubellis told the *Montreal Gazette* that the University will look at the proposal but that it is concerned about issues like student turn-over and food safety.

The university's professed concern for the food safety issue is a little hard to swallow for many students, particularly the 37 residence students who were poisoned by the current corporate food-service provider, Sodexho corporation. On November 13, 2001, 37 residence students ate chicken fajitas for dinner. All 37 fell ill. And 37 stool samples

later, it is now known beyond any reasonable doubt that the poisoning was due to *Clostridium Perfringens*, a form of food poisoning.

Residents were already largely dissatisfied with their mandatory Sodexho meal plan before being poisoned. The poisoning has added enough fuel to the fire to push them into action. This winter, Residents Against Sodexho (RAS) will be kicking-off a public awareness campaign to encourage the university

to fundamentally alter the way that food services are offered on the Loyola campus. This will be another major bone of contention when the food services contract comes up for re-negotiation in April. In particular, RAS is demanding that the meal plan become optional rather than mandatory.



Sodexho's behaviour at Concordia is not unusual for the multinational corporation. A Sodexho cafeteria served part of a thumb to a student in a turkey sandwich at a Manitoba highschool. Another cafeteria poisoned elementary school children in Wisconsin with an *E.coli*-infested self-serve food bar. The company is also known for its less than enlightened labour practices. It has illegally fired employees who tried to unionize in Michigan and has been accused of trying to pay slave wages to inmates at its privately-run refugee detention centre in Harmondworth UK.

Other students and workers are currently engaged in battle with the world's largest food service corporation. You can find out about them at <http://eyeonsodexho.org>.



The CSU Transition Team and President's Farewell

by Patrice Blais, CSU President

Three years ago I started being involved at the CSU. It feels like yesterday, yet also a decade ago. When I started political science 5 years ago a teacher said, "regardless of where, you need to be involved in something, if you want your degree to be worth something." Today I can only acknowledge the truth behind those words. I gained maturity, experience, and skills by being involved in this university which I never thought I would develop when I was filling out my application 5 distant years ago.

Students came out in record numbers to vote last term. It is often in controversy that apathy is broken and I wish in March these numbers will stay constant. This election was controversial on many grounds, from the process, to the candidates, to the events that led up to it. On the less controversial side members voted on 6 referendums questions and CSU Council has already acted on some of the resolutions that were passed. We also have two new Councillors for Fine Arts and Engineering & Computer Science respectively. Unfortunately, CSU Council has not yet been able to ratify a newly elected executive committee because contestations of the electoral process are still working their way through the CSU Judicial Board.

In the meantime all the former VPs had resigned their portfolios and the CSU would not have been able to provide the many services that students have come to expect without a functioning executive committee. CSU Council has decided to appoint a transition team to office for a limited term. The Judicial Board has until January 20th to come to a decision on the allegations levelled against the victorious

It is often in controversy that apathy is broken and I wish in March these numbers will stay constant

Representative Union party. The Representative Union should then take office on January 23rd 2002. Council would be setting a grave precedent if it accepted the election results before the Judicial Board has ruled on the challenge to their legitimacy, which is the right of CSU members to make.

Nevertheless, CSU student services should not be held hostage by politics. That is why you have a highly qualified and politically diverse transition team. Petition campaign leader Ralph Lee will be VP Academic-Advocacy. Former RU slate member Sameer Zuberi will be VP Internal. Commerce students Louis-Eric Simard and Marie-Pierre Kerr will be VP Finance and VP Outreach respectively.

While the democratic process of election verification continues, students can be sure that the CSU will continue to function, providing everything from advocacy services to the Job & Housing, clubs administration and even free coffee. Feel free to come to the CSU office and meet the transition team, because they won't be here for long.

As for myself I want to wish the best to all members of the Concordia Student Union and I will always look back with pride to the accomplishments of the CSU in the last three years. The CSU is not perfect but has a very strong potential. It is up to us, students, to make it its best. We are not in university only to be the future of society, but to be active and prominent members of society today, tomorrow and any day thereafter until we fall into oblivion.



So you need to contact the CSU?

Concordia Student Union
1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest
Suite H-637,
Montreal, PQ H3G 1M8

Telephone: 514.848.7474
Fax: 514.848.7450
Email: csu@csu.tao.ca

CSU Executive Election Results Await Judicial Board Ruling

By Samer Elatrash, CSU Councillor

The last CSU elections brought out a larger voter turnout than ever, attracted attention from the mainstream press in Montreal and, as became apparent over the course of the elections, a good number of contestations against the electoral process and some of the candidates.

The irregularities began when Chief Electoral officer Jessica Lajambe disqualified the Representative Union at the insistence of the New Organized Way, who alleged the Representative Union attempted to bribe them to drop out of the race. They presented a recorded conversation with Nilli Yavin, an executive with the Representative Union as proof.

The Representative Union was disqualified for around twelve hours, during which time their name was taken off of the ballots. Over 500 students voted during this period. An agreement was struck between the competing slates, where they were to direct the CEO to close these ballots, and extend the voting period for the general student population by one day. The students who had already voted were called and asked to revote at a special voting booth in the Hall building. After a week extension over the usual period of an election, less than half of the students came back to cast another vote. The CSU had attempted to call all these students at their homes to inform them of the special voting booth, yet not all students received a call, as some of the numbers in the CSU's hands are outdated.

When the results finally came out, many of the candidates did not expect it to end there. The Representative Union defeated the runner up An Umbrella Party by 250 votes. One week later, Adam Slater handed in his contestation against the electoral process and the

Facing the prospect of a CSU with no executive, for an unknown period, President Patrice Blais appointed an interim executive upon the resignation of the Access slate.

Representative Union. He contests the election on a number of grounds, including the alleged act of campaigning during the polling period by Sharon Koifman, an executive with the Representative Union, which is illegal. He further points out that elections extended well beyond the legitimate period accorded by the CSU bylaws, as one booth remained open after classes came to an end.

There are several points in the contestation against Chris Shulz, including the allegation that he had maintained backdoor dealings with the University's lawyer, who had initially helped him. The legal sessions did not show up on Schulz's campaign expenses, and the gist of them was absent when Shulz submitted his list of dealings with the administration to the CEO, as was required of all candidates. The CEO decided not to rule on the contestation since her ruling would be appealed either way, and sent the contestation directly to the judicial board.

Facing the prospect of a CSU with no executive for an unknown period, President Patrice Blais appointed a transitional executive upon the resignation of the Access slate. Included in the transitional government is Ralph Lee, a Concordia student who spearheaded the campaign to recall the Access slate, and Sameer Zuberi, a former member of the Representative Union. Patrice Blais had approached several executives from the competing slates that ran in the elections.

The transitional government is necessary, according to Sameer Zuberi. "There are several reasons why I chose to come on board," the 22-year-old Math student says. "First, the CSU cannot function without an executive, and I felt that I could do the job. Then there is my discomfort at some of the tactics employed by the Representative Union." When asked if his decision was in any way influenced by pressure from the Muslim community Zuberi responded: "I believe there are many Muslim Concordia students who were proud of me when I won. If there was any pressure, real or imagined, I believe that it was Shulz who felt it, and that's why he felt it so necessary to have a Muslim student on board."





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What do you want your student union to be doing for you????

By Ralph Lee, V.P. Academic - Advocacy

In response to student concerns over the activities of the union the transitional executive has created a survey that will be widely available to all students.

The survey will be used to find out what students want their union to be doing. This is only the first step in re-establishing a better relationship with students who feel that the union has not kept in touch with the interests of all students. It is extremely important that the union receive feedback from students in all faculties so we can know what their needs are.

The survey will include a comments section and students are encouraged to write what they feel the union should be doing and anything else they feel would be relevant. The survey will contain 16 questions that relate to important aspects of student life.

Finally we must stress the importance of such a survey at this time. This survey will create a better dialogue with students and allow us to find out and focus on the issues that matter to students. We encourage all students to take the time and fill out this survey. The results of the survey will be published in an upcoming publication of The Unabridged.

Questionnaires will be available in the CSU Office, at tables in the lobby and at CSU events

Getting help from the CSU - Who to see about what

The CSU Reception Staff can help you with -

- Health and Dental plan information • Faxing services • Referrals • Opting out of the Capital Campaign and Admin Fees

Come see Sameer Zuberi, VP Internal-

- * For information about forming a CSU Club • For general Information about clubs or services • To find out more about how to get involved in Campus bodies

Come see Marie-Pierre Kerr, VP Outreach-

- If you have questions about campaigns • If you need help with events organising

Come see Ralph Lee, VP Academic - Advocacy-

- If you are having problems with University red tape • If you need advocacy with teachers or administrators • If you have questions about your academic rights

Come see Louis-Eric Simard, VP Finance-

- If you have questions about your Club budget • If you have questions about any funding concerns

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Thursdays - DJ & Party Night
DJ and drinks

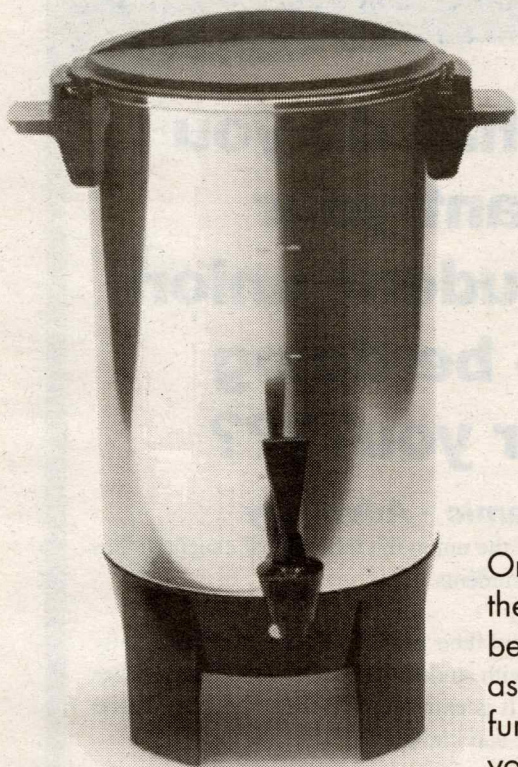
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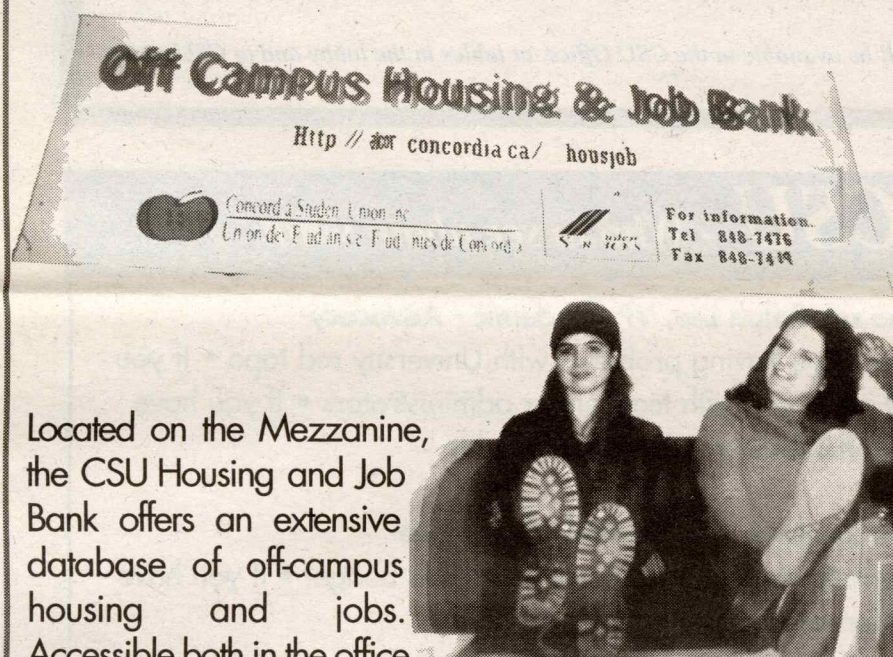


at the
CSU



On the 6th floor, outside the CSU offices, coffee is being offered by donation as part of a drive to raise funds for charity. Bring your own mug if you can.

The CSU Housing and Job Bank



Located on the Mezzanine, the CSU Housing and Job Bank offers an extensive database of off-campus housing and jobs. Accessible both in the office and on their website (<http://www.alcor.concordia.ca/~housejob>) their database, offers referrals to off-campus employment to help you make your rent and feed your belly while you're feeding your mind. **Stop by and let the staff assist you.**

Referendum 2001 Results



The undergraduate students of Concordia demand the immediate reversal of the University's decision to deduct 1.61% of all the money transferred to CASA, The Concordian, CSU, ECA, FASA, Frigo Vert, The Link, Media Fund, the non-academic clubs' fund, the People's Potato, QPIRG, Women's Centre and to hold the winter fees until January 31st. We are also demanding that the University enter negotiations if they intend to change the system at least 6 months prior to the end of the fiscal year with all the groups cited above. Should the University refuse to reverse the decision within 7 days of this referendum being approved the newly elected executive will launch a vast campaign in order to ensure that these fees are recuperated?

Yes: 2311 - No: 909 - 74% in Favor

Are you in favor of changing the current media fund of 0.15\$ per credit expiring in Winter 2003 to an ongoing Media Fund of 0.13\$ per credit indexed annually to the CPI index for the city of Montreal to primarily benefit CUTV, CJLO and the Amateur Radio Club, and secondarily, to benefit non-academic clubs. The fee would be effective Winter 2002, applicable equally to all members and reimbursable in accordance with the University's billing and refunds policy?

Yes: 2103 - No: 989 - 68% in Favor

Are you in favor of democratizing the position of dean of students in annual elections where all students will be eligible to vote instead of only the rector. The outgoing dean will have his/her name automatically placed on the ballot and anybody else can run for the position by filling in the appropriate nomination form. The first election will be held in the Winter semester of 2002 and the elected dean will be accountable to the student body instead of solely to the University administration.

Yes: 2071 - No: 1077 - 66% in Favor

Do you agree to increase the fee for non-academic clubs to \$0.69 per credit in order to increase the level of funding of all our non-academic clubs to around 50% of other universities? This fund would include club and student initiated projects and would not be used for the operating activities of the student union. The fee would be effective Winter 2002 and reimbursable in accordance with the University's billing and refunds policy.

Yes: 1478 - No: 1761 - 54% Against

The CSU implores the Canadian government to cease all deliberations relating to the ban on new enrolments of students from Iran, Iraq and Libya in Chemistry courses at Canadian universities. Even considering such measures, and making those considerations public by leaking them to the press, is itself a racist attack on Muslim students and students of Arab origin motivated by war hysteria.

Yes: 1984 - No: 1014 - 66% in Favor

Do you agree with the following statement:

We the students of Concordia express our profound grief and shock towards the massacre of innocent civilians on Sept. 11th, 2001. We offer our fullest sympathies and condolences to the victims, their friends and families.

We call on the government of the United States of America to immediately cease all military operations against Afghanistan and to refer all matters relating to the Sept 11th attacks to a duly convened international court of law where the guilty parties can be ascertained and appropriate measures taken by this court.

Until such a time as the United States completely ceases all military actions against Afghanistan, we direct our student union to take the appropriate measures to organize for peace and justice and to oppose this new war which will only result in the further punishment of innocent civilians in Afghanistan.

We denounce any attempt to place responsibility for the actions of a few upon an entire community, and we will not tolerate any racist acts against Arabs, Muslims or any other ethnic or religious group.

Yes: 1885 - No: 1235 - 60% in Favor

Will Concordia Democratize the Dean?

By Margot Brennan, CSU Communications

The CSU Fall 2001 Referendum results have been in only a month and already activity is mounting in response to the decisions. However it's not just CSU Councillors, Executives and Members who are active, Surprisingly so are Concordia's Administrators. In a recent meeting with Rector Lowy and Dean of Students Boisvert, CSU President Blais was informed that the administration is taking into consideration the results of referendum question number 3, for which 66% voted in favour of "democratizing the position of Dean of Students."

The Dean of Student is responsible among other things is intended to "advocate for students, support diversity, and encourage a strong sense of community." Surprisingly the Dean of Students has traditionally been hired without any form of student input and there is presently no mechanism for students to evaluate the Deans performance.

The University Administrations response is promising, but so far unrealized. The Rector has promised that a concrete proposal "to ensure significant student input in the selection of the Dean of Students," will be received by the CSU by January 20th. Until we see the

proposal it can't be gauged how serious their commitment is.

Also passed in this referendum was a resolution demanding "the immediate reversal of the University's decision to deduct 1.61% of all the money transferred" to student groups whose fees are collected through the University. The University's response has been less prompt in this case. Promises were made of a clear legal agreement that would be proposed by the end of the holidays, but no such draft has been forthcoming.

CSU Council has approved an upcoming Antiwar Conference and a committee of councillors and volunteers are already hard at work planning and organizing for the event. There is still a lot of potential projects and ideas that can be put into action and our members are invited to get involved when and where they can.



Student Initiative to Co-ordinate Antiwar Conference

By Sameer Zuberi, VP Internal

In the November by-elections, in the form of a referendum question, 60% of students voted against the war in Afghanistan and in favour of their student union taking appropriate measures to organise for peace, justice, and to oppose this new war. A consequence of the referendum question has been realised by a student initiative to co-ordinate an Antiwar Conference.

The conference is taking place on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of March 2002 and will include speeches and workshops throughout the weekend. With volunteers to help co-ordinate the conference and funding provided by the CSU, this initiative has the potential to be one of the greatest accomplishments of the Concordia community and we hope many Concordians will be able to attend.

The conference will have three themes: Armed Conflict and Recovery, Imperialism and Colonialism, and Racism and Anti-Immigration. Armed Conflict and Recovery encompasses information and discussion about the arms trade, the successes and failures of War Crime Tribunals, and peacekeeping missions. Imperialism and Colonialism in broad terms entails understanding political and

economic exploitation; examples include current events in Afghanistan, Palestine, Argentina, and Iraq. This part of the conference will also focus on the discrimination faced by Native people of North America and the disadvantages faced by women affected by war. Finally, Discrimination and Anti-Immigration will cover bills like C-36, arbitrary arrest and detainment, racial profiling, and the effects of war on Canadian immigration.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), student unions and trade unions from across Canada and the United States, have expressed interest in attending and even being involved in the conference. Organizers hope that this Antiwar Conference will outreach to a wide spectrum of the population, in an effort to inform and come to some resolution. Translation services will be provided to make this a bilingual event.

If the task of this information campaign is realised, it will send out a common message enabling the emergence of a widespread alternative outlook on certain governmental policies. The expression of public opinion is a very powerful way to pressure the government to become more sensitive to the plight of racially profiled and marginalised peoples, as well as to issues of social justice at the international level.

Reduced Rates Exclude Mature Students

20% of Concordia full-time students are cut out of cheaper transit fares

Montreal's new mayor, Gérald Tremblay made a campaign promise that he actually very promptly acted upon when he came into office in December. The promise was to institute reduced transit fares for full-time students at the Cegep and University levels, and though the reduction has been implemented, there are a few catches.

For the majority of students this is a decent saving, but almost 20% of Concordia full-time students won't benefit from this reduction. Why don't they qualify? Because the reduction has been limited to students 25 years old and younger. Based on Concordia's most recent available statistics, at least 2,000 full-time students are 25 or over, disqualifying them or putting them right on the cusp of disqualification.

The reduced fare means that students pay only \$25 for a monthly fare card. Our mature students are not only missing out on the savings but are paying the increase in regular fares that came hand-in-hand. Regular fares were raised by \$0.25 and monthly passes now cost \$50.

We can't help but appreciate the reduced fares, but the age cut off is unnecessary and discriminatory and deserves to be challenged.

If you are interested in exploring ways change this, get in-touch with your VP Academic and Advocacy, Ralph Lee, by calling 848-7461 or emailing him at ralphalee@hotmail.com.



The Concordia Student Union, QPIRG, Convergence des Luttes Anti-Capitalistes, CKUT, and Action contre la Guerre, l'Impérialisme et le Racisme (AGIR) presents -

Ward Churchill

**Meet the new boss,
same as the old boss:
Globalization, Genocide and Resistance.**

Ward Churchill is a Keetoowah Cherokee, professor of American Indian studies at the University of Colorado/Boulder, a member of the leadership council of Colorado AIM (American Indian Movement), former National Spokesperson for the Leonard Peltier defense committee, and author of *A Little Matter of Genocide*, *Struggle for the Land* and *Pacifism as Pathology*, among other books.

Mon. January 21 2002

DB Clarke Theater

7pm

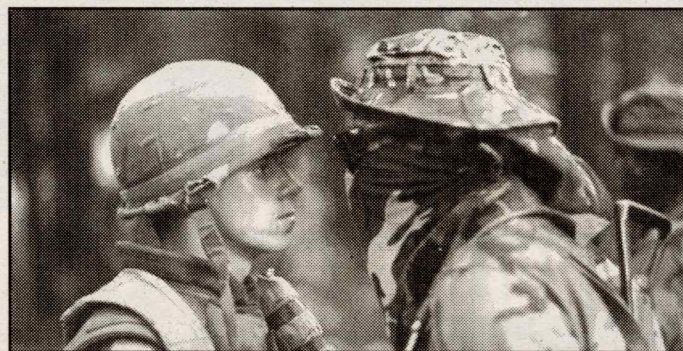


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Uniting Students Across Quebec:

ASSE – CFS February Action

By Andre Munro, CSU Assistant Researcher

CFS Quebec Campaign Information

- The CFS-Q will be starting a campaign calling for education reform in Quebec, in the areas of Loans and Bursaries, Government Funding and an end to Differential Fees for Students from outside Quebec.
- Quebec's Bursary program has not kept up with the cost of post-secondary education.
- The youth unemployment rate in Quebec has remained at a very high 15% and so many students must rely solely on loans and bursaries to pay for education and living expenses.
- The maximum loan and bursary disbursement amounts to less than half of the poverty level (over the period of a year).
- Many students already cannot afford to study and are left out of post-secondary education. The CFS-Q feels that the government of Quebec should increase the amounts of bursaries in order to include all citizens who seek a post-secondary education.
- Since 1994, the Parti Quebecois cut over \$2 billion from education spending, although a partial restoration of funding was agreed to after large scale protests around the Quebec Youth Summit.
- The government has made it a yearly event to threaten cuts to the promised new funding. Premier Bernard Landry recently announced that in a 'worst case scenario' the promised funding could not be guaranteed.

The Concordia Student Union, and the CFS Quebec of which we are a member, prioritize reaching out to other Quebec student organizations to coordinate our struggles to protect the quality and accessibility of education. Recently a new organization uniting Quebec post-secondary students is gaining momentum.

Founded in February 2001, the ASSE (Association for a Student Union Solidarity) is an organisation that seeks to unite cegeps and universities throughout Quebec to defend the material and ethical interests of its members.

In the present context of globalisation, education is increasingly subjected to market based rationalization. More and more, the trend is for education providers to prioritize productivity, efficiency and accommodating the demands of the employment market: at the expense of quality education, financial accessibility and the University's role in social criticism.

The consequences for students are increased class sizes, a smaller selection of courses and higher levels of tuition and fees.

At Concordia, like in other Quebec universities, this process accelerated in the mid 90's, culminating with the recent signing of the provincial performance contracts and the Legault Plan. The performance contracts force universities to rationalize programs and to change the curriculum of the university on the basis of efficiency and productivity criteria. The funding of the university and specific programs, becomes dependent on their compliance to this plan.

As governmental funding is increasingly uncertain, universities are being made more dependent on funding from the private sector and are forced to focus cuts on programs that do not attract private sector funding. This so-called rationalisation has had major repercussions. At UQAM, entire programs are being closed and class sizes are ever expanding. At Concordia, many programs are slated for "review" in the near future.

Another repercussion of diminished public funding is that universities have been responding by pressuring the provincial government to deregulate the tuition freeze, attempting to make students pay higher tuitions to make

up the deficit. The Provincial Government was actually very happy with Concordia University when they signed the performance contract, the University's Administration had already made the cuts to classes and services funding demanded by Quebec.

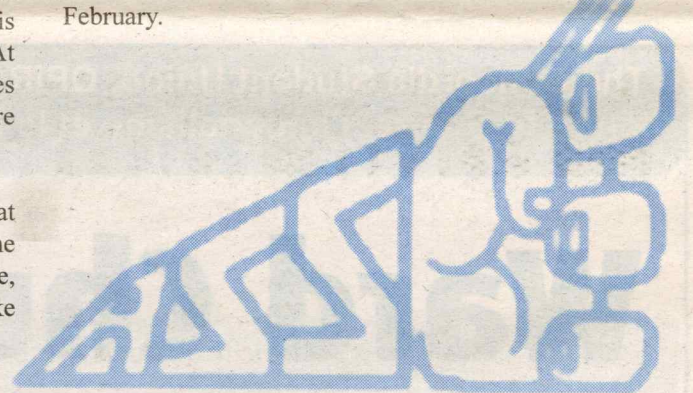
Even if it is true that Concordia's Administration has been very compliant in response to these reforms, it is principally the Quebec government that is responsible and who we must pressure to defend our rights in this matter.

Another repercussion of diminished public funding is that universities have been responding by pressuring the provincial government to deregulate the tuition freeze

The commodification of education is not inevitable. We still have a chance to fight back for free, quality public education. The Concordia Student Union, being a member of the Canadian Federation of Students, has historically formed alliances with other student unions in Quebec,

but education regulation and funding being a provincial matter in Canada, we need to go further for a strong alliance. United with the different cegeps and universities of this province we can build a strong opposition to the neo-liberal agenda of the PQ's Minister of Education.

As the first step of a provincial campaign against neo-liberal reforms in education, the ASSE is calling upon all Quebec students and all those interested in defending the public aspect of our education system, to join in a demonstration that will take place the 21st of February in Quebec City. This date also commemorates the anniversary of the 2000 Quebec Youth Summit where the government claims to have obtained consensus in favor of making the education system more market driven. Stay tuned and keep your eyes open, we will soon give you more details. Be sure to look for information tables in the SGW Hall Building Lobby in February.



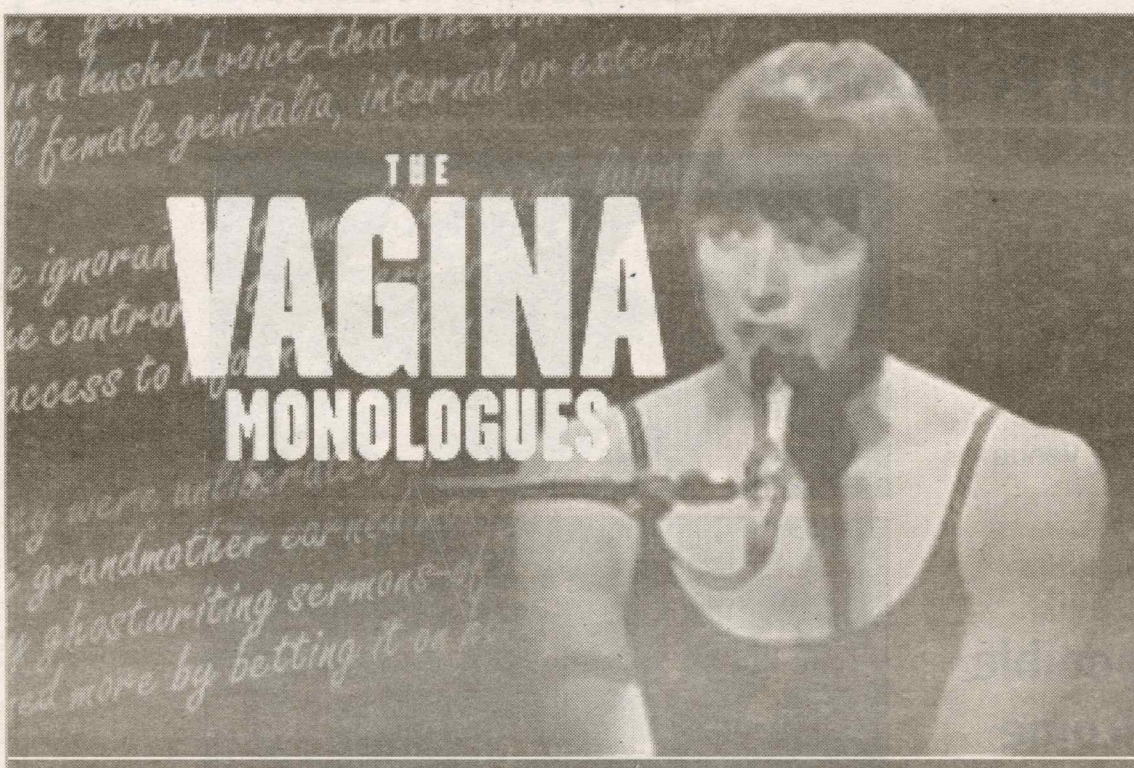
8000 Nerves and V-Day Concordia University Presents three benefit performances of

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

By Eve Ensler

At the D.B. Clarke Theatre
February 4th 5th 6th
8pm

Tickets: \$15 for Adults and 8\$ for Students
For reservations:
(514) 291-4194



The Vagina Monologues is a collection of outrageous and unique stories with music, dance, and a woman's art display. All proceeds go to local organizations actively working towards ending violence against women and to the united VDAY front that supports the liberation of women in Afghanistan



CUTV - Concordia University Television

Student coverage of student events

By Aaron Mate, CSU Councillor

After a short lapse last year due to management scuffling, Concordia University Television (CUTV) is back on the air. The network, which currently airs on television monitors on the sixth floor of the Hall building, is poised to continue its coverage of student events, while expanding into other aspects of student life. Student projects, documentaries, and live webcasts are just some of the exciting new projects currently in development and production by the group of 40-odd student directors, producers, writers, camera operators, and editors. "We're really excited for this upcoming term," explains CUTV Executive Producer Marcelo Coehlo, speaking in an interview with the Unabridged. "We have many exciting projects going on that we hope will interest -- and involve -- a wide variety of students."

Among the new projects planned is a half-hour news show on Concordia student affairs, ranging from our exciting political climate to the latest happenings of our athletic teams, from our fledgling and groundbreaking arts faculties to academic and administrative issues.

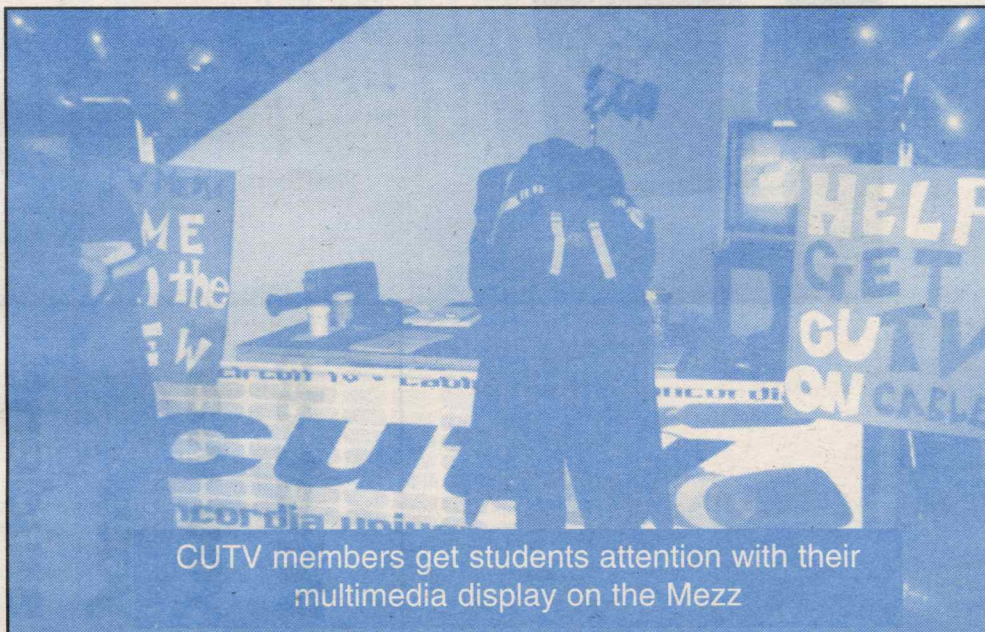
"Basically," says Coehlo, "the focus will be on students. Whatever is going on that affects students, that involves students, we're going to do our best to be there." Aside from news coverage, CUTV also plans to encourage and feature independently-produced student video projects and documentaries. "These pieces can be on anything a student may want to do," Coehlo explains, "from art pieces, to documentaries, even to narrative short videos. The idea is to foster and encourage an environment where students can work together to express themselves through the medium of television."

Students are allowed to submit their own material, as well as to borrow CUTV equipment to shoot their own productions. As for content, anything goes. "As long as your piece isn't sexist, racist, prejudiced or hateful in any way," Coehlo says, "we'll air it."

Concurrent with these new programming and project developments is the launch of an on-air website, which will feature archived student projects as well as live webcasts of

student events. The website, <http://cutvmedia.com>, promises to be another outlet through which Concordia students can both learn what's going on as well as get involved themselves. "Every project that we get will be archived on-line," explains Coehlo, "so anyone with internet access can watch them at any time."

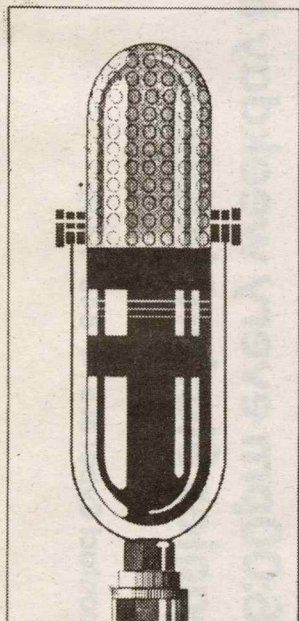
Coehlo also hopes to expand CUTV's audience by putting in more TV monitors around campus, aside from their current locale on the sixth floor. This will be particularly important, he notes, should student life continue along the tumultuous and eventful course it has taken thus far. "With all that happens here, it's important to keep students aware of what's going. CUTV is just one more way of doing that." Indeed, many students last term greatly benefited from CUTV's frequent broadcasts of the CSU presidential debates, some even basing their voting choices on what they saw.



"I'm a pretty busy guy, with a lot of things on the go," says Benjamin Rombro, a fourth-year History major. "I just didn't have the time to sit through the debates themselves. So having those broadcasts on the TV screen sure was a great help for me, and definitely helped me make up my mind about who to vote for." Coehlo is hopeful that CUTV will continue with this function this term, and stresses that the more volunteers and participants, the better. "The great thing about Concordia, I think, is the degree to which so many students get involved in exciting and innovative projects. I think ours is one of them, and hope that people come by and take advantage of it."

To get involved, Concordia University Television can be contacted at 848-7403, or simply drop by their offices at H-651-1.

Ham Radio Course



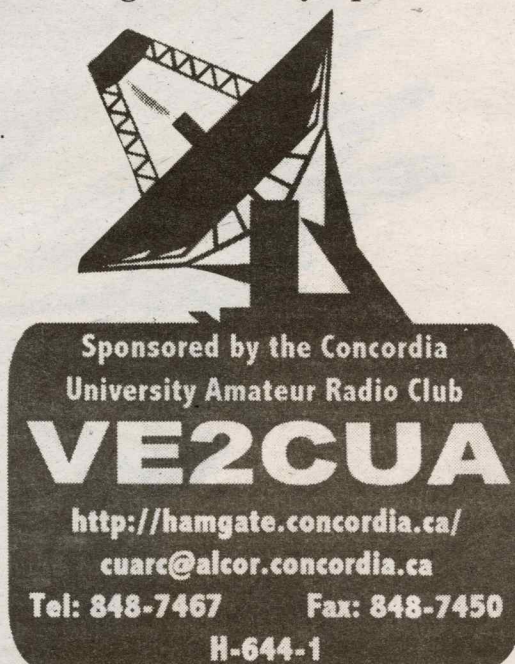
The Concordia University Amateur Radio Club is holding its annual basic qualification course this semester on Saturday mornings, starting January 19th. The course covers topics in basic electrical engineering as well as the principles of radio wave propagation, and no previous engineering or radio experience is necessary to take the course.

The course costs \$75.00, takes place from 10:00am to 1:00pm Saturday mornings until early April on the Loyola campus.

The price includes two books and all related fees.

Students who are interested should contact the Amateur Radio Club via email (cuarc@alcor.concordia.ca), or leave a message at (514) 848-7467

Please include your name, ID number, phone number and email address if you would like to sign up for the course.



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